

**Education Cabinet**

**Kentucky Board of Education**

**Department of Education**

**(Amendment)**

**704 KAR 3:340. Commonwealth Diploma Program.**

RELATES TO: KRS [~~156.031,~~] 156.070, 156.160

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 156.070, 156.160

NECESSITY, FUNCTION, AND CONFORMITY: [~~KRS 156.031 requires that administrative regulations relating to statutes amended by the 1990 Kentucky Education Reform Act be reviewed, amended if necessary, and resubmitted to the Legislative Research Commission prior to December 30, 1990;~~] KRS 156.070 authorizes the Kentucky [~~State~~] Board of [~~for Elementary and Secondary~~] Education to prescribe such courses of study, curriculums, and programs as it deems necessary for the common schools. [~~]; and~~ KRS 156.160 requires the Kentucky [~~State~~] Board [~~for Elementary and Secondary~~] of Education to adopt administrative regulations determining the courses of study for the different grades and the requirements for graduation from offered courses. [~~A Commonwealth Diploma shall be issued to students completing a Commonwealth Diploma Program. The purpose of such a diploma and program are to encourage high academic achievement in Kentucky high schools; to encourage more of the capable students to attend college; to improve the working relationship between high schools and colleges and universities; and to allow students to gain college credit prior to attending college.~~]

This administrative regulation implements a Commonwealth Diploma Program and sets forth the conditions and criteria under which a Commonwealth Diploma shall be issued.

Section 1. (1) The Kentucky ~~[State]~~ Board of ~~[for Elementary and Secondary]~~ Education shall award to each student in the public schools of this state completing a Commonwealth Diploma Program a Commonwealth Diploma.

(2) The ~~[This]~~ diploma shall be printed by the Kentucky Department of Education and sent to the appropriate district upon verification of program completion to the Department of Education by the local district. The ~~[Each]~~ diploma shall be issued in the name of the ~~[each]~~ student ~~[so identified]~~. ~~[Verification to the Department of Education shall be on forms supplied by the Department of Education and shall be submitted in a timely fashion so as to provide for awarding of the Commonwealth Diploma at regularly scheduled graduation ceremonies, said forms being incorporated herein by reference and available for inspection, copying, and obtaining from the 18th Floor, Capital Plaza Tower, 500 Mero Street, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.]~~

(3) A student ~~[Those students]~~ receiving a Commonwealth Diploma ~~[Diplomas]~~ shall be cited as a recipient ~~[recipients]~~ at graduation ceremonies.

Section 2. The requirements for obtaining a Commonwealth Diploma shall include ~~[are as follows]:~~

(1) Successful completion of at least twenty-two (22) approved units of credit, including all the minimum unit requirements for high school graduation established ~~[set forth]~~ in 704 KAR 3:305 and any additional units specified by the applicable local board of education;  
[-]

- (2) Successful completion of all minimum requirements of the Precollege Curriculum established by the Council on Postsecondary ~~[Higher]~~ Education including, ~~[Minimum Precollege Preparation requirements are as follows]:~~
- (a) Language arts - four (4) units (English I, English II, English III, and English IV);
  - (b) Mathematics - three (3) units (Algebra I or Algebra II, geometry, and one (1) elective);
  - (c) Science - two (2) units (Biology I or Chemistry I, or Physics I, and one (1) elective);
  - and
  - (d) Social Studies - two (2) units (including World Civilization and U. S. History);~~[-]~~
- (3)(a) Successful completion (i.e., receiving a grade or the equivalent of "C" or better) of at least four (4) courses, ~~[as hereinafter designated and]~~ which contain essential content as described in the Advanced Placement (AP) Program Course Description booklets of the College Entrance Examination Board and which include ~~[such booklets being incorporated herein by reference and copies of which may be obtained from the College Entrance Examination Board]:~~
- 1. English - one (1) course;
  - 2. Science or mathematics - one (1) course (selected from biology, chemistry, or physics, or mathematics);
  - 3. Foreign language - one (1) course (selected from French, German, Latin, or Spanish);
  - and
  - 4. One (1) additional AP course (selected from English, science, foreign language, history, computer science, political science, music, or art); or
- (b) Successful completion (i.e., receiving a grade or the equivalent of "C" or better) of at least four (4) courses, ~~[as hereinafter designated and]~~ which contain essential content as

described in the International Baccalaureate (IB) program course description booklets and  
which include ~~[such booklets being incorporated herein by reference and copies of which~~  
~~may be obtained from the International Baccalaureate North America, Inc.]:~~

1. Language A, the student's first language English, - one (1) course;
2. Natural or experimental science or mathematics - one (1) course (selected from biology,  
chemistry, physics, or mathematics);
3. Language B, a foreign language - one (1) course (selected from French, or Spanish); and
4. One (1) additional IB or AP course ;or

(C) A combination of AP and IB courses that address the content areas specified in this  
section; and

(4) Completion of one (1) AP Examination in at least three (3) of the AP or IB areas  
specified in subsection (3) of this section, without regard to score.

Section 3. (1) [During the 1987-88 and 1988-89 school years, the Kentucky Department of  
Education shall reimburse to local school districts the costs of required AP examinations  
for all students successfully completing the aforementioned criteria. Beginning with the  
1989-90 school year,] Reimbursement to the local school district by the Department of  
Education for the costs of the required AP examinations for a student successfully

completing the criteria established in Section 2 of this administrative regulation shall [will]  
be contingent upon a student ~~[student's]~~ receiving a ~~[specified]~~ minimum composite score  
of eight (8) on the three (3) required AP examination. ~~[This requirement shall be phased in~~  
~~over a four-year period, with said minimum composite score starting at five (5) in 1989-90~~  
~~and being raised by one (1) each school year until it reaches a minimum score of eight (8)~~  
~~in 1992-93.]~~

- 1    (2) Beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, reimbursements shall be contingent upon a
- 2    student receiving a score of three (3) or higher on an examination.
- 3    (3) Reimbursement funds shall be sent [~~for distribution~~] to local districts once each year on
- 4    the basis of documentation supplied by the district.

This is to certify that the chief state school officer has reviewed and recommended this administrative regulation prior to its adoption by the Kentucky Board of Education, as required by KRS 156.070(4).

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jon E. Draud  
Commissioner of Education

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joe Brothers, Chairperson  
Kentucky Board of Education

PUBLIC HEARING AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: A public hearing on this proposed administrative regulation shall be held on September 23, at 10:00 a.m. in the State Board Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Capital Plaza Tower, 500 Mero Street, Frankfort, Kentucky. Individuals interested in being heard at this meeting shall notify this agency in writing five working days prior to the hearing, of their intent to attend. If no notification of intent to attend the hearing is received by that date, the hearing may be canceled. This hearing is open to the public. Any person who wishes to be heard will be given an opportunity to comment on the proposed administrative regulation. A transcript of the public hearing will not be made unless a written request for a transcript is made. If you do not wish to be heard at the public hearing, you may submit written comments on the proposed administrative regulation. Written comments shall be accepted until September 30, 2008. Send written notification of intent to be heard at the public hearing or written comments on the proposed administrative regulation to Kevin M. Noland, Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel, Bureau of Operations and Support Services, Kentucky Department of Education, 500 Mero Street, First Floor, Capital Plaza Tower, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601, phone 502/564-4474, fax 502/564-9321.